

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMCONSUL KADUNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3110

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, NI

SUBJECT: 1975 HARVEST IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

AFDROUGHT

REF: A) KADUNA 406; B) STATE 159322

1. SITUATION NOW SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN THAT REPORTED IN OUR 406 ONE MONTH AGO. RAINS HAVE IMPROVED OVER THE PAST TWO TO THREE WEEKS. IF THIS WEATHER HOLDS WELL INTO SEPTEMBER HARVEST COULD BE FAIRLY ADEQUATE BUT A REPEAT OF LAST YEAR'S BUMPER CROP APPEARS TO BE OUT OF THE QUESTION. EXTENSIVE REPLANTING FOLLOWING INSECT DAMAGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN KANO AND NORTH CENTRAL STATES BUT GOOD YIELDS FROM THESE PLANTINGS WOULD REQUIRE RAIN WELL INTO OCTOBER WHICH WOULD BE UNUSUAL NORTH OF THE 12TH PARALLEL.

2. NORTHERN STATES MARKETING BOARD (NSMB) IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE GROUNDNUT CROP. ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE WAS DONE BY INSECTS EARLY IN THE GROWING SEASON, NSMB SAYS ACREAGE PLANTED THIS YEAR IS GREATLY INCREASED OVER 1974. INCREASE IS ATTRIBUTED TO MORE ATTRACTIVE PRICES OFFERED BY MARKETING BOARD FOR GROUNDNUTS SINCE APRIL OF THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT GREATER GROUNDNUT ACREAGE PROBABLY INDICATES REDUCED PLANTING OF STAPLE FOOD

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CROPS. LAST YEAR'S BUMPER CROP RESULTED NOT ONLY FROM EXCELLENT

RAINFALL BUT FROM FARMERS PLANTING FOOD CROPS IN PREFERENCE
TO CASH CROPS (I.E. GROUNDNUTS) IN RESPONSE TO SCARCITIES OF
PREVIOUS DROUGHT YEARS.

3. EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK HAVE LIMITED CONSOFF TRAVEL. AS A
RESULT ABOVE BASED ON LESS FIRST HAND OBSERVATION THAN HOPED FOR.
WILL ADVISE OF ANY NEW INFORMATION THAT BECOMES AVAILABLE.
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